

Enhanced Surveillance of Severe Illness due to Influenza in Pregnant and Postpartum Women

Dear Colleagues,

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to implement a revised reporting system to monitor severe influenza infection in pregnant and postpartum women. The goal of this revised reporting system is to improve timeliness, completeness, accuracy, and level of detail in reports of deaths and intensive care unit admissions due to influenza in pregnant women and women with symptom onset up to 6 weeks postpartum.

We are asking clinicians to report severe illness and deaths in pregnant and postpartum women due to **any influenza infection** diagnosed by a) a positive rapid test, or b) rRT-PCR positive for influenza, or 3) DFA/IFA, or 4) viral culture. If you are caring for any pregnant or immediately postpartum (within 6 weeks of delivery) women who are admitted to an intensive care unit, and/or die with any type of influenza infection (2009 H1N1 virus or other strain), please call the MSDH Epidemiology Program at 601.576.7725 (or 1.800.556.0003 outside of the Jackson area) to report the case. This important public health effort cannot succeed without your help.

CDC has extensive guidance available on their website regarding the care and treatment of pregnant women. Please see the following links:

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinician_pregnant.htm

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>

In addition, CDC has established a support line (404-368-2133) that will be staffed 24 hours/7 days beginning Monday, October 19. Staff will be available to provide clarification on CDC guidance for pregnant women via telephone consultation with board-certified OB/GYN specialists.